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A victory smile over coffee for James G. Kellis, Democratic Congressional nominee in Oakland county. (Tribune photo)

Kellis Pushes Defense, Foreign Policy Issues

by AL STARK
Tribune Staff Reporter

The Democrats' new nominee for Oakland county Congressman, a politician only 75 days, hurried today to carry the issues of foreign policy and defense to his Republican opponent, a four-year veteran of Washington.

It is clear that Oakland county voters will witness a switch on Presidential politics. There the Republican ticket of Nixon and Lodge is advertising and re-advertising its encounters with Russians.

In Oakland county, the Democrat, James G. Kellis, ex-U.S. spy chief, one-time operations chief for the super-secret Central Intelligence agency, intelligence officer in NATO, will talk the same

issue against Congressman William S. Broomfield.

Thinks He Knows More—

The latter's top committee job in Washington has been public works. He has not often addressed himself to international affairs.

Kellis, happy, tired, Democratic winner, said this morning:

"I think I know more about these things than he does."

Kellis said, "When he filed his nominating petitions, he said foreign policy is the big important issue."

"I challenge him . . . If it is the issue, we should debate it for the people. I'd like to fight the campaign over these issues."

Won by 10,500

How close Kellis will get to Broomfield for debate remains to be seen. In 1958, Broomfield paid almost no attention to the Democratic nominee, Leslie Hudson, and won by 10,500 votes in a Democratic year.

It is axiomatic that an incumbent never (or almost never) recognizes his challenger.

Broomfield ran his campaign against Hudson from a house trailer which was more a folksy meeting place than a high-powered campaign wagon. The trailer

bears no party label. Broomfield parks it in farm villages and at city corners.

He sees and talks to a lot of people. He has won.

Inspecting NATO Bases—

It is interesting that in the statement Kellis referred to,

Broomfield first addressed himself to his district, reminding voters how he has represented when they've brought their problems to Washington.

It is interesting, too, that Broomfield voted by absentee ballot in Tuesday's primary. He is in Europe, a member of a Congressional team which is inspecting NATO bases.

It is likely Broomfield will be prepared for Kellis' campaign, a campaign that Kellis describes as something of a crusade.

Kellis said this morning, "I left the U.S. Air Force in May completely burned up about defense and international relations. If I thought everything was all right, I would still be a colonel somewhere in a comfortable job where I wouldn't have to get up at four in the morning to greet workers at the gates."

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